



Approved For Release 2004/10/28 : CIA-RDP88-01314R000100010053-6

American Cause

VOL. II, No. 10

905 16th St., N.W. • Suite 304 • Washington, D.C. 20006 • (202) 638-4006

NOVEMBER 1976

RHODESIA

We have been watching the developments in Rhodesia with great apprehension. We hope this area is not the tinderbox to set off the next major war. Many thoughtful and trustworthy experts are very worried.

AC GUN POLL SHOWS AMERICANS— MORE THAN 4 TO 1—FAVOR PRIVATE OWNERSHIP OF FIREARMS

Preliminary tabulations of the American Cause Citizens' Referendum on Gun Control show that Americans are opposed to gun control.

Of the more than 6,000 members who replied to the query, *Do you believe that private citizens should continue to have the right to keep firearms in order to defend themselves and their families from violent criminal acts?*, a resounding 84% said YES.

On the question, *Do you believe that a ban on private purchase and ownership of guns would substantially lower the rate of violent crime in your community?*, 80% voted NO.

More than 85% of the respondents said that abolishing legal private ownership of firearms would NOT effectively prevent criminals from obtaining guns for their own purposes.

An overwhelming 96% of those polled believe that stiff prison sentences should be mandatory for criminal repeaters convicted of violent crimes with any form of firearm.

And 79% of those polled said they would NOT vote for any candidate for public office who advocated a ban on the private ownership of firearms.

Opinion polling is one phase of the education gun ownership program. In addition to airing the views of poll respondents on TV, **American Cause** plans to publicize your views in major publications and—in keeping with our promise to present both the pro and con wherever there is controversy—educate the public about the truths behind both arguments on the question of gun ownership.

WELFARE & THE BIG APPLE

Over the past five and one-half years a New York City woman, together with her five children and her boyfriend, collected \$88,268.17 in welfare benefits. In 1975 alone she got \$18,000.

This lady from Queens clipped the city for \$6,183 for 41 instances of duplicative check frauds, \$6,841 for housekeeping services, \$3,280 for moving expenses, and \$630 for duplicative rent and many other goodies.

New York State's Welfare Inspector General Richard Horan reports, "the offender not only has never been referred to the local District Attorney, but also no monies fraudulently received in the form of replacement checks are being recouped."

So to find a solution New York City has borrowed \$6.9 billion from Uncle Sam (that's you, taxpayer), while welfare cheats go unprosecuted.

HO HUM

National tests show that basic student skills—reading, writing, and arithmetic—are eroding rapidly and consistently. Former National Education Association President Catherine Barrett believes that the teaching of basic skills should "take no more than one-quarter of the school day."

AND MORE RED TAPE

At Stanford University federal safety inspectors got ahead of Angela Davis when they reported that the school's 6,000 chromium-plated fire extinguishers failed to meet federal specifications. One of Uncle Sam's bureaucratic requirements is that all such devices be colored red. The resourceful school officials quickly complied with the ruling by wrapping their own **Red Tape** around the offending fixtures.

It's an interesting fact that the sum total of federal rules cost colleges and universities approximately \$2 billion each year—close to the amount the institutions raise through voluntary donations. Any failure to comply with federal regulations means a cut-off of federal funds.

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DIRECTOR'S CORNER

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by the Honorable George Murphy

The obligation of **American Cause** takes on a new dimension as a direct result of the just past election. If we truly believe, as we have stated, in the necessity of preserving the American system through education, it will be our duty to work harder than we ever have before to inform our members regarding the exact course of affairs in our government and in our national community so that they, armed with even greater knowledge, may be prepared to make the necessary decisions which will bear directly on America's future.

A small group of Eastern liberals masquerading as Republicans have once again led the GOP down the distressing, dismal road to political defeat. Disenchanted Democrats in short-sighted confusion have aided and abetted the catastrophe which most conservatives hoped would be averted in this election. I am afraid we have suffered a more serious national calamity than most realize. I do not refer to the election of Gov. Carter. I am worried about the imbalance in the Congress, the disappearance of the system of checks and balances guaranteed by the Constitution, the political complexion of much of the first-term representatives who swept into the House on the Watergate backwash, and the numerical control which is held by the labor leaders. I sincerely hope that I am in error in my judgment, but all evidence points toward possible national disaster.

An unholy coalition of Liberals, Leftists, Labor Bosses, and Socialists, plus organized minorities aided by the powerful left-leaning *New York Times* and *Washington Post* have pushed our country several more degrees down the slippery path to national socialism.

The TV networks also have played an important part in upsetting the balance in our government. They have taken the lead in questioning our characteristics as a nation, attacking our tried and successful system of economic affairs, destroying our historic heroes and building in their place a new and weird type of individual who ignores laws, resists restraints, and creates controversy and sometimes even destruction in our society.

We sincerely hope that our newly elected President will turn out to be one of the best ever. We wish him the greatest possible success. We hope he will follow the great legacy of the South which gave us such statesmen as Thomas Jefferson and Jefferson Davis. In the meantime, we will watch the performance of the new Congress carefully and critically, and help to build a well-informed electorate who will be able to keep our ship of state on an even keel.

Just Released...

AN IMPORTANT NEW FILM

The Price of Peace and Freedom is a carefully documented summary of the military strength of the United States and the Soviet Union. It should be seen by all citizens.

Available for rent or purchase from the producer—

The American Security Council Education Foundation
Boston, Va. 22713—

this 27½-minute, 16mm., color film was made in cooperation with the AFL-CIO.

POLL SHOWS U.S. BACKS
DEFENSE OUTLAY

Recent national poll results (Oct. 1976) show that Americans feel a renewed sympathy for military spending and are more concerned about Soviet military power.

The survey of more than one thousand Americans, released by a Washington-based research company, concludes that "Americans have become significantly more sympathetic toward overall military and defense spending."

"The majority of Americans now agree with the proposition that the United States should maintain its dominant position as the world's most powerful nation at all costs, even going to the very brink of war if necessary."

A majority of those queried subscribe to the view that the United States should endeavor to be "number one" in world power and influence.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

Calling for "swift and certain punishment" of criminals, Rep. Bob Kasten (Wis.) criticized Congress for ignoring several crime control bills while spending 12 months trying unsuccessfully to work out an acceptable gun control bill.

"Strict gun control laws are not the answer," he said. "Gun control laws...are not effective in keeping weapons out of the hands of criminals. Instead, they have created costly bureaucratic agencies and endless red-tape for law-abiding, responsible citizens who have a Constitutional right to own firearms."

INTERNATIONAL COMMON CAUSE
COMES TO WASHINGTON

New Directions, a new Washington-based, foreign affairs partner to Common Cause (CC), was officially "launched" in mid-October by anthropologist Margaret Mead and former union leader Jack Conway. Former Delaware Governor Russell Peterson, also

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former chairman of the Rockefeller Commission on Critical Choices and Approved For Release 2004/10/28 : CIA-RDP88-01314R000100010053-6
Quality of Life, will be President of New Directions.

CC Chairman John Gardner and CC President David Cohen are listed on the governing board of New Directions along with former Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara. Conway, who will chair the board, is a former CC President.

American Cause has learned that the lobbying group plans to lobby on Capitol Hill, will support or oppose candidates for public office, and will be "seeking global solutions to the problems of hunger, poverty, illiteracy, unemployment, ill-health, injustice, discrimination, population growth," and perhaps bald heads, scald heads, bloody nose and chill blanes. My, what a broad brush. You name it and they'll take care of it!

Panel chairpersons who will be determining legislative action include James F. Leonard, UN Association; Sanford Gottlieb, Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy; Rose Styron, Amnesty International; and H. Donald Wilson, World Federalists, plus many more of the same One World socialist persuasion.

Miss Mead gives the organization's aim as: "to tap all of the people in this country who wish they could do something about their world and who don't believe they can do a thing." Please note: Underscore is provided by the editor. It would seem that this "new" Common Cause is to be concerned with world power and world priorities; not with the good of the United States.

When these old dogs start doing new tricks, we'll keep our eyes on them so we can keep you informed.

"We live in a welfare-oriented society...people expect more and more from Big Daddy government and Big Daddy charity. That philosophy never got you anywhere."

Screen star Clint Eastwood

American Cause Newsletter

Published by **American Cause, Inc.**, a bipartisan, tax-exempt, political education organization.

The Honorable George Murphy, Director

American Cause is distributed monthly to contributors of \$15. or more per year. Contributions are tax deductible.

American Cause's purpose is to educate the people, but not in any manner to attempt to influence legislation.

CIA-RDP88-01314R000100010053-6 THE UNBALANCED SCALES

A consumer advocate for the state of Illinois figures the U.S. Postal Service is overcharging Chicagoans some \$20 million a year. If Chicago is typical, the overcharge for the entire country could be as high as \$500 million.

The advocate's investigators mailed three parcels and three letters, all carefully weighed on state scales, from each of 42 post offices in Chicago. Postal workers calculated the postage correctly less than one-third of the time, with the money error running 5 percent in favor of the postal service. Errors resulted from inaccurate scales, which were off 68 percent of the time.

American Cause wonders where are all those efficiencies Congress was promising five years ago?

And it's oh so hard to switch to another brand when you're dealing with a government monopoly.

SALT I...IN RETROSPECT

Strange and disturbing rumors continue to slip in and out of private conversations in Washington regarding the conditions, conduct, and net result of SALT I as it affects the future of the United States.

It is pointed out that the "T" in SALT means Talks. It does not mean negotiation. Yet we Americans are led to believe that what Dr. Kissinger and his team agree to is a totally binding agreement. This is not so.

The fact is that the Russian "talkers" could not "negotiate" even if they so wished. Negotiations on the Russian side can only be done by the top men who stay in Moscow. They assess everything that has been said on both sides before they decide on the political advantages to be gained by the Russian government.

The United States is playing the game according to honorable rules. The Russians play only for advantage; never mind the rules. We view SALT as a mutually cooperative process in which both sides share common objectives for the common benefit of mankind. We do not consider the talks to be an instrument of foreign policy in a political and strategic competition between the two superpowers.

It is no wonder that the Russians cannot understand us. They think we are either a little bit crazy or up to some long-range nefarious scheme because of the way in which we accommodate their requests.

The United States approach to SALT I was truly a good will demonstration.

The Soviets, on the other hand, use SALT and détente as facades behind which lie their bigger chess game for world domination. Competitive advantage for the USSR is the name of the game. SALT is just one more opportunity for political warfare against the United States and its NATO allies.

The Soviets have not only closed the missile gap, but

are also ahead of us in many areas. We must also remember that thus far the Soviets have never permitted restricting agreements or treaties to stand in their way.

Paul Nitze, a former dove, in a recent article cast serious doubts on the wisdom of further SALT meetings. "There is every prospect," he says, "that under the terms of the SALT agreements the Soviet Union will continue to pursue a nuclear superiority that is not merely quantitative but designed to produce a theoretical war-winning capability....If, and only if, the United States now takes action to redress the impending strategic imbalance, can the Soviet Union be persuaded to abandon its quest for superiority and to accept the path of meaningful limitations and reductions through negotiation."

THE WASTE YOU PAY FOR

Testimony from one of our largest pharmaceutical manufacturing companies before the Commission on Federal Paperwork disclosed that the application to market a new medicine for arthritis required 120,000 original pages plus an equal number for both a duplicate and a triplicate set. More than a ton of paper was required for this application. Obviously, the enormous quantity of unnecessary paperwork that absorbs hundreds of millions of dollars every year is one reason the cost of drugs is so high. You, the consumer, pay and pay and pay.

CHILE

Chile has been much in the news in the Nation's Capital lately. It all began as part of the organized attack on the CIA. A series of stories in the press implied that the CIA played an important part in the overthrow of the communist government of Allende. This was denied by our government.

Next came a series of horror stories of torture and brutality in the treatment of political prisoners. This was followed by, we believe, irresponsible accusations against the new government of Augusto Pinochet. Then came the unfortunate bombing in Washington, which was immediately blamed on an agent of the new government.

One must understand that all of these accusations and negative statements emanate from sources on the Left and far-Left. These sources constantly oppose any and all efforts by anti-communists.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the coin, we find that the new government has cut the rate of inflation by 200 percent and that the actual stabilization of economic conditions is well ahead of schedule.

The new government has achieved a surplus in balance of payments of \$200 million and has developed a non-traditional export figure of \$700 million. This figure does not include copper and is made up to a great extent by things never exported before. All of the war debts are being paid on schedule without the new government requesting any delay or moratorium.

So...there has been a healthy increase in foreign exchange, the uncertainties of the copper industry—attributable to the communist government of Allende—have begun to disappear. General confidence is returning throughout Chile.

Where a short time ago we had a communist-directed government that would have extended Moscow's and Cuba's influence in Latin America, we now have a non-communist government that is friendly to the United States and is also restoring the economic conditions and vitality so badly needed in Chile.

We hope that all of our Latin American neighbors will watch the progress and realize that the people of a free nation are much better off than those who are forced to live under communism.

One Firm Speaks Out...

WHO OWNS THE FREE ENTERPRISE SYSTEM?

Do the big corporations own it?
NO

Does the government own it?
NO

Do the bureaucrats own it?
NO

Do the rich own it?
NO

OK. Who owns it?
HERE'S WHO:

Farmers, businessmen, professionals, government employees, corporate employees, members of labor unions and all owners of corporate and government securities.

In short, everybody owns the free enterprise system.

So since we all own it, let's stop trying to beat it to death. Instead, let's treat it with the respect it deserves.

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FIFTH AVENUE & 57TH STREET